SUBJECTS.

were in every way far ahead of them, had not been allowed to them.

Dewan.—Are you not given the same concessions as the Mahomedans ? That can be done, I suppose.

The Member also submitted that the Pulayas might be appointed in the Educational, Engineering and Medical Departments and said that there were competant hands for work in the Education Department.

Dewan.—At any rate, they can be used for teaching their own children. Have you any Pulayas competent to teach ?

Member.—Yes.

Dewan.—You may give a list of such men to the Director.

The Member, in conclusion, pointed out the disabilities of the Pulayas in the matter of using the public roads and entering the public offices, in spite of the Royal Proclamation, and he urged that steps might be taken to remedy these grievances.

62. The extremely backward state of education among the Nanjinad Vellalas and how best to remove it.

Mr. Armugaperumal Pillai (Member, Agasteeswaram taluk) represented that the Vellala community of South Travancore were in a backward state in regard to education and that the want of education made them more and more litigious and poor. The people as a class were reluctant to study, and as such, unless the Government took the initiative in imparting education to them, their condition would become worse. The Member therefore suggested (1) that Elementary Education should be made compulsory among them, (2) that more Departmental Elementary Schools should be opened, in the two taluks of Agasteeswaram and Thovala, (3) that concessions in fees and stipends should be granted to the Vellala pupils in the existing institutions above Class IV, (4) that Vellala candidates with suitable qualifications should be preferred to others for Government employment, at least in Nanjinad, for a time, (5) that an Agricultural School, where Vellala youths can be trained in the modern improved methods of agriculture, should be opened and (6) that the study of Tamil should be made compulsory in all the schools of the locality.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

Needs of Nanjinadians in the matter of their education.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agasteeswaram taluk) said that the people of Narayanputhur, numbering about a lakh, were in urgent need of a school in their midst. More than 300 pupils of the place had to go to Kottar for their education. A school for the place had already been sanctioned, but had not been opened yet.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly